**HTML Editors**

**Write HTML Using Notepad or TextEdit**

Web pages can be created and modified by using professional HTML editors.

However, for learning HTML we recommend a simple text editor like Notepad (PC) or TextEdit (Mac).

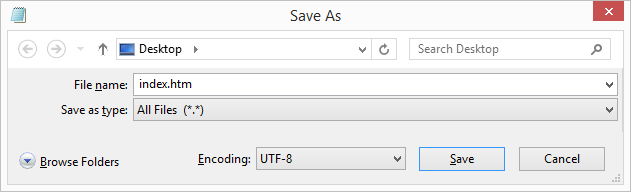
We believe using a simple text editor is a good way to learn HTML.

Follow the four steps below to create your first web page with Notepad or TextEdit.

**Save the HTML Page**

Save the file on your computer. Select **File > Save as** in the Notepad menu.

Name the file **"index.htm"** and set the encoding to **UTF-8** (which is the preferred encoding for HTML files).



You can use either .htm or .html as file extension. There is no difference, it is up to you.

**HTML Elements**

An HTML element usually consists of a **start** tag and **end** tag, with the content inserted in between:

<tagname> Content goes here...</tagname>

The HTML **element** is everything from the start tag to the end tag:

<p>My first paragraph.</p>

**Note**: HTML elements with no content are called **empty elements**. Empty elements do not have an end tag, such as the <br> element (which indicates a line break).

**Nested HTML Elements**

HTML elements can be nested (elements can contain elements).

All HTML documents consist of nested HTML elements.

This example contains four HTML elements:

**Example**

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<body>  
 <h1>My First Heading</h1>  
 <p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>  
</html>

**Example Explained**

The **<html>** element defines the **whole document**.

It has a **start** tag <html> and an **end** tag </html>.

The element **content** is another HTML element (the <body> element).

<html>  
<body>  
 <h1>My First Heading</h1>  
 <p>My first paragraph.</p>  
</body>  
</html>

The **<body>** element defines the **document body**.

It has a **start** tag <body> and an **end** tag </body>.

The element **content** is two other HTML elements (<h1> and <p>).

<body>  
 <h1>My First Heading</h1>  
 <p>My first paragraph.</p>  
</body>

The **<h1>** element defines a **heading**.

It has a **start** tag <h1> and an **end** tag </h1>.

The element **content** is: My First Heading.

<h1>My First Heading</h1>

The **<p>** element defines a **paragraph**.

It has a **start** tag <p> and an **end** tag </p>.

The element **content** is: My first paragraph.

<p>My first paragraph.</p>

**Do Not Forget the End Tag**

Some HTML elements will display correctly, even if you forget the end tag: Consider bad html though.

**Example**

<html>  
<body>  
 <p>This is a paragraph  
 <p>This is a paragraph  
</body>  
</html>

The example above works in all browsers, because the closing tag is considered optional.

**Never rely on this. It might produce unexpected results and/or errors if you forget the end tag.**

**Empty HTML Elements**

HTML elements with no content are called empty elements.

<br> is an empty element without a closing tag (the <br> tag defines a line break).

Empty elements can be "closed" in the opening tag like this: <br />.

HTML5 does not require empty elements to be closed. But if you want stricter validation, or if you need to make your document readable by XML parsers, you must close all HTML elements properly.

**Use Lowercase Tags**

HTML tags are not case sensitive: <P> means the same as <p>.

The HTML5 standard does not require lowercase tags, but **you should use** **lowercase** in HTML, and **demands** lowercase for stricter document types like XHTML.

**HTML Attribute**Attributes provide additional information about HTML elements.

**HTML Attributes**

* All HTML elements can have **attributes**
* Attributes provide **additional information** about an element
* Attributes are always specified in **the start tag**
* Attributes usually come in name/value pairs like: **name="value"**

**The lang Attribute**

The language of the document can be declared in the **<html>** tag.

The language is declared with the **lang** attribute.

Declaring a language is important for accessibility applications (screen readers) and search engines:

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html lang="en-US">  
<body>  
...  
</body>  
</html>

The first two letters specify the language (en). If there is a dialect, use two more letters (US).

**Use the Internet to find out the following countries**

**Spain –**

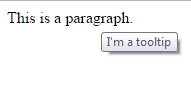
**Germany –**

**France –**

**Portugal –**

**Brazil -**

**The title Attribute**

Here, a **title** attribute is added to the **<p>** element. The value of the title attribute will be displayed as a tooltip when you mouse over the paragraph:

**Example**

<p title="I'm a tooltip">   
 This is a paragraph.  
</p>

**The href Attribute**

HTML links are defined with the **<a>** tag. The link address is specified in the **href** attribute:

**Example**

<a href="http://www.espn.com">This is a link</a>

You will learn more about links and the <a> tag later in this tutorial.

**Try It**

1. **Type the following code and save as .html**

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<body>

<a href="http://www.espn.com">This is a link</a>

</body>

</html>

1. **View in a browser**

**Size Attributes**

HTML images are defined with the **<img>** tag.

The filename of the source (**src**), and the size of the image (**width** and **height**) are all provided as **attributes**:

**Example**

<img src="picture.jpg" width="104" height="142">

The image size is specified in pixels: width="104" means 104 screen pixels wide.

You will learn more about images and the <img> tag later in this tutorial.

**The alt Attribute**

The **alt** attribute specifies an alternative text to be used, when an image cannot be displayed. The value of the attribute can be read by screen readers. This way, someone "listening" to the webpage, e.g. a blind person, can "hear" the element.

**Example**

<img src = "picture.jpg" alt = "Mypage.com" width = "104" height = "142">

**We Suggest: Use Lowercase Attributes**

The HTML5 standard does not require lowercase attribute names. The title attribute can be written with uppercase or lowercase like **Title** and/or **TITLE**.

I strongly **recommend** lowercase in HTML, and **demands** lowercase for stricter document types like XHTML.

**We Suggest: Quote Attribute Values**

The HTML5 standard **does not require** quotes around attribute values. The **href** attribute, demonstrated above, can be written as:

**Example**

<a href=http://www.espn.com>

**I strongly** **recommend** quotes in HTML, and **demands** quotes for stricter document types like XHTML.

Sometimes it is **necessary** to use quotes. This example will not display the title attribute correctly, because it contains a space:

**Example**

<p title=About espn>

Using quotes are the most common. Omitting quotes can produce errors.   
**Single or Double Quotes?**

Double quotes around attribute values are the most common in HTML, but single quotes can also be used.

In some situations, when the attribute value itself contains double quotes, it is necessary to use single quotes:

<p title='John "ShotGun" Nelson'>

**Or vice versa:**

<p title="John 'ShotGun' Nelson">

**Summary**

* All HTML elements can have **attributes**
* The **title** attribute provides additional "tool-tip" information
* The **href** attribute provides address information for links
* The **width** and **height** attributes provide size information for images
* The **alt** attribute provides text for screen readers
* Always use **lowercase** attribute names
* Always **quote** attribute values with double quote

**HTML Attributes**

Below is an alphabetical list of some attributes often used in HTML:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Description** |
| alt | Specifies an alternative text for an image, when the image cannot be displayed |
| disabled | Specifies that an input element should be disabled |
| href | Specifies the URL (web address) for a link |
| id | Specifies a unique id for an element |
| src | Specifies the URL (web address) for an image |
| style | Specifies an inline CSS style for an element |
| title | Specifies extra information about an element (displayed as a tool tip) |

**QUESTIONS**

1. **What is the purpose of attributes?**
2. **Why should tags be in lowercase?**
3. **What initials would you use for Spanish when using the lang attribute in the body tag? (Google)**
4. **What is an empty tag?**
5. **What are nested tags?**